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ABSTRACT

These two books, designed for use in bilingual education programs, are parallel versions in English and in Spanish of the story of a young Puerto Rican boy who lives in New York. The story, illustrated with black-and-white photographs, is designed for oral activities with first graders and for reading and comprehension with second and third graders. The story can be used to develop reading comprehension by selecting the main idea and related details, drawing inferences, predicting outcomes, generalizing and reaching conclusions. Through discussion of each photograph and its main theme, the child can increase his visual discrimination and observation powers. (Author/AM)

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a boy named Manuel

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A BOY NAMED MANUEL

A story in English

Primary Grades

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a boy named Manuel

by
MADELINE ZAYAS

Manuel walked slowly home from school. He was thinking of all the things that had happened to him.

When he had first come to New York, he had been surprised by the tall buildings, the streets, and all the noise. But how he had loved it all! So many things were always happening.

He had not had much time to think about his little town in Puerto Rico. Many months passed, and New York was no longer a new, exciting adventure.

The first days of school were very hard for him. He could not understand what the teacher said!

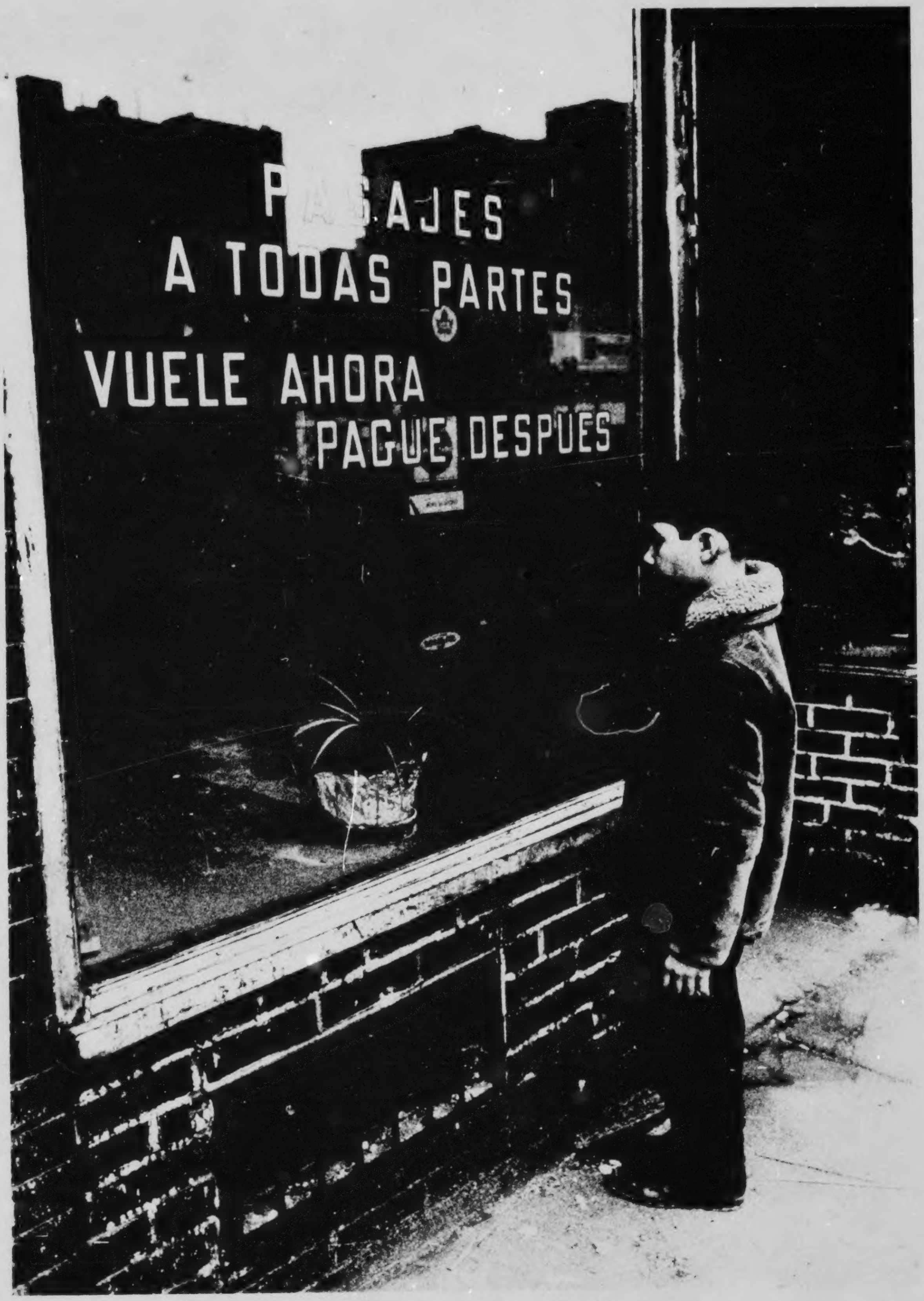
Some friends tried to help him and that made him feel better, but he still could not understand the teacher.

One day his teacher said, "Come, Manuel, I have a surprise for you. This is your new teacher, Mrs. Ortiz."

Manuel was happy now. He knew what the teacher was saying. The classes were in Spanish. He understood!

He had been in his new class for many months. But now he was sad again.

As he walked home, he thought about his town in Puerto Rico, about the many people he knew there, and the pretty houses. His house had been small, but for Manuel it was the prettiest house in town. He thought about the beautiful flowers his mother always had around the house, the trees in the yard, and the tall, green grass that grew everywhere.


PASAJES
A TODAS PARTES
VUELE AHORA
PAGUE DESPUES

As he came to the corner, Manuel looked around. There were so many cars here, so many tall buildings, and so much concrete.

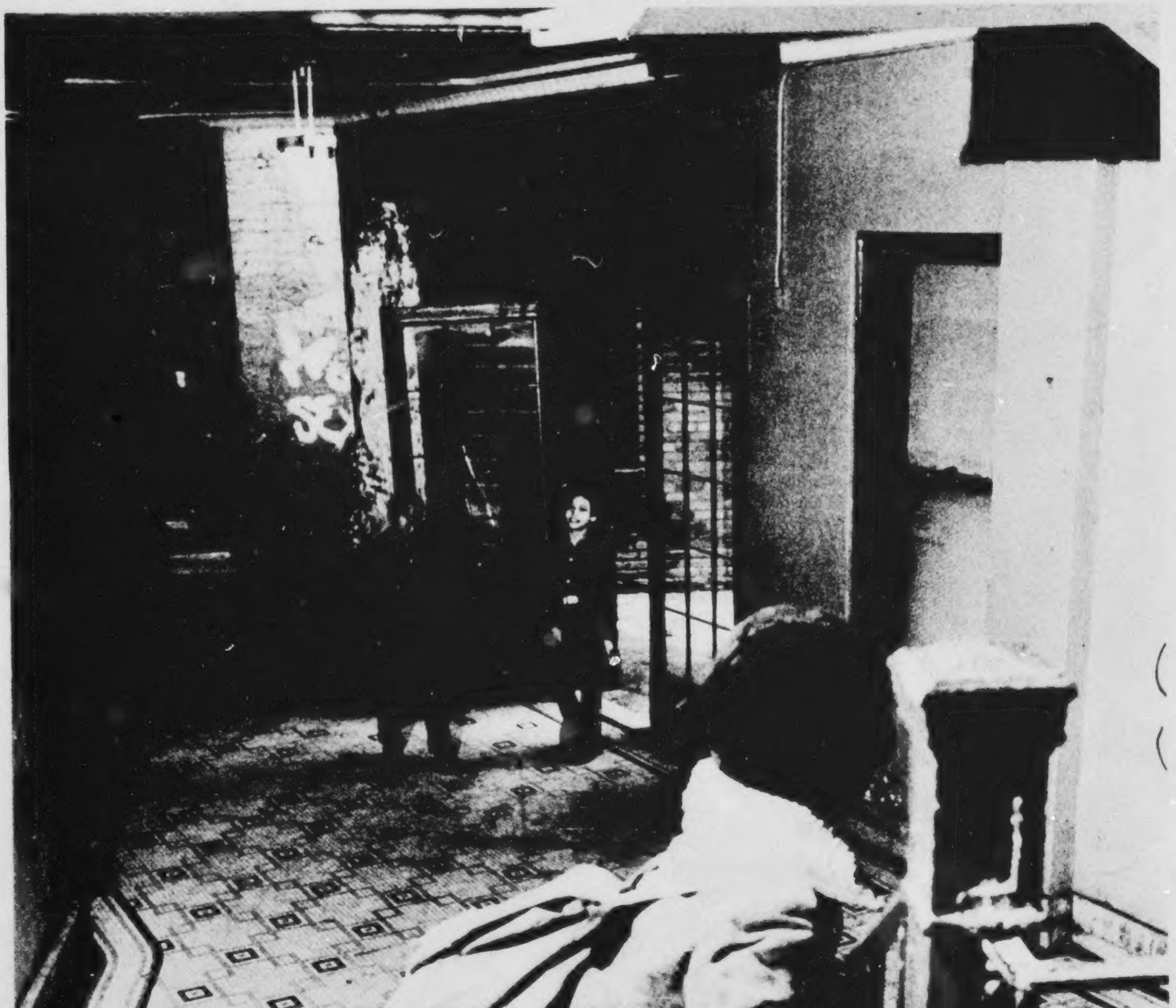
"Where are the flowers, the trees, and the grass?" thought Manuel. He took a deep breath. Even the air did not smell the same.

As he walked up the stairs of the building, his two friends Johnny and Pedro ran up to him.

"Hey, Manuel, are you coming down later?" yelled Johnny.

"We found some big boxes on the street by the empty lot, and they are great for rolling around in," said Pedro.

Manuel looked at them and said, "I'll have to ask my mother first, but I'll try to come down soon, okay?"



19

Manuel ran up the stairs. He knocked on his door; soon he heard footsteps. Someone behind the door asked, “Who’s there?”

“It’s me, *Mami,*” answered Manuel. As he came in, he threw his books on a chair.

"*Mami*, may I play outside today? I'll be with Johnny and Pedro."

"All right, but take the garbage down with you. And when I look out the window, I want you to be on this side of the street."

Manuel flew down the stairs!

He met Johnny and Pedro, and together they ran toward the empty lot.

When they reached the lot, Pedro grabbed a box, tore off the top, and crawled inside. Manuel and Johnny rolled the box around.

8-3M
3000 pack

Later it was Johnny's turn to get inside the box. When it was Manuel's turn, Johnny and Pedro rolled the box round and round until Manuel became very dizzy.

LILY-TULIP

As Manuel climbed out of the box, he saw something behind a pile of old bricks. As he came closer, he saw grass behind the bricks. He could not believe his eyes. Grass was trying to grow in a vacant lot filled with trash. Suddenly Manuel had an idea.

He walked to the grass and whispered, "Grass, I am going to help you grow."

Manuel ran back to Johnny and Pedro. "Johnny and Pedro, help me plant some flowers and grass here."

Pedro looked at Manuel and said, "Manuel, I think you have been rolling around in the box too much. Look at this place!"

"Yes," said Johnny, "this place is full of rags, boxes, old bricks, and broken bottles. How are you going to grow flowers here? Let's go, Pedro."

Off they went, laughing all the way. Manuel was left alone. "I will make the plants grow. I do not care if Johnny and Pedro laugh. I will make them grow."

Every afternoon, after school, Manuel rushed home. Then he ran to the lot. All alone, he cleaned up some of the trash in the vacant lot.

He was very happy. But he did not tell anyone what he was doing. He wanted the cleaned lot to be a surprise. He would show everyone that he could do it by himself. Many times he had seen his mother working in the garden back in Puerto Rico. He had learned a lot about flowers and how to grow them.

Manuel carefully collected all the seeds that he could find. He had some tomato, avocado, and pumpkin seeds. He also collected some beans that his mother had in the kitchen.

After he had cleared a place in the empty lot, he planted his seeds. He did not expect them all to grow, but he hoped some would grow.

Every day he watered them and guarded the plants so that no trash would be thrown on them.

But nothing happened. He watched and waited.

"My plants will not grow," Manuel told his mother. "What have I done wrong?"

"Do not cry," his mother said. "You must be patient."

One day, as Manuel was coming home from school, his mother came running up the street.

"Manuel, Manuel, come quickly. I have a very big surprise for you."

Off they ran together. Manuel could not believe his eyes. In the corner of the empty lot that he had cleared of trash, there now was growing . . . the most beautiful plant he had ever seen!

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61

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un niño llamado Manuel

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UN NIÑO LLAMADO MANUEL

Lectura en español
Educación primaria

por

MADELINE ZAYAS

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un niño llamado Manuel

por

MADELINE ZAYAS

Manuel caminaba lentamente de la escuela a su casa. Pensaba en todo lo que le había ocurrido.

Al llegar a Nueva York, Manuel se sorprendió con los edificios altos, las calles y el ruido. Pero, ¡cómo le había gustado todo! Pasaban tantas cosas . . .

No había tenido tiempo para pensar en su pueblecito en Puerto Rico. Más, los meses fueron pasando y ya Nueva York no resultaba una aventura.

Los primeros días pasó mucho trabajo en la escuela. ¡No entendía lo que la maestra decía!

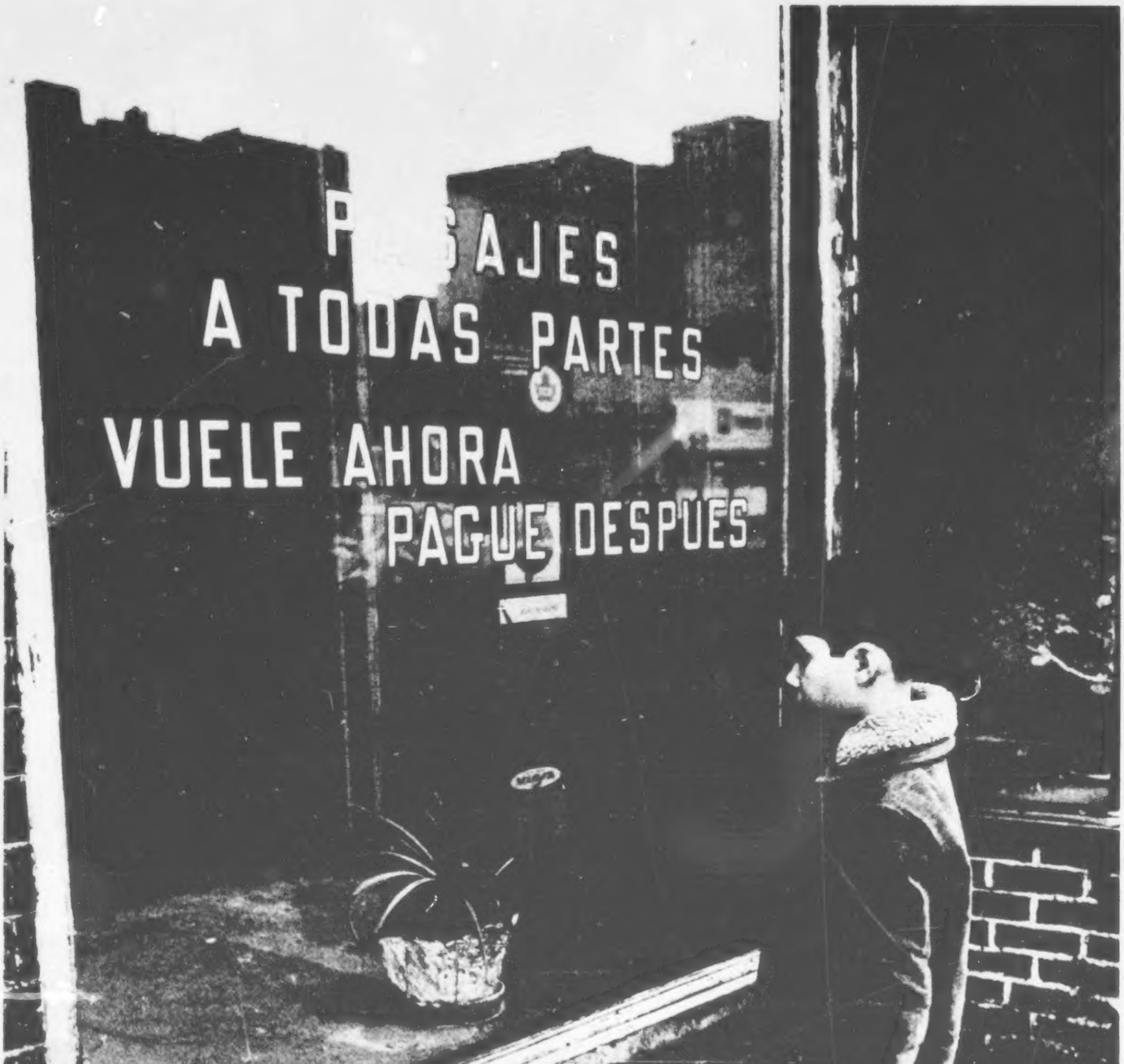
Algunos amigos trataron de ayudarlo y se sentía mejor, pero todavía no entendía.

Un día la maestra le dijo: -Ven Manuel, te tengo una sorpresa. Ésta es tu nueva maestra, la señora Ortiz.

Ahora, Manuel se sentía contento. Las clases eran en español. Entendía . . . .

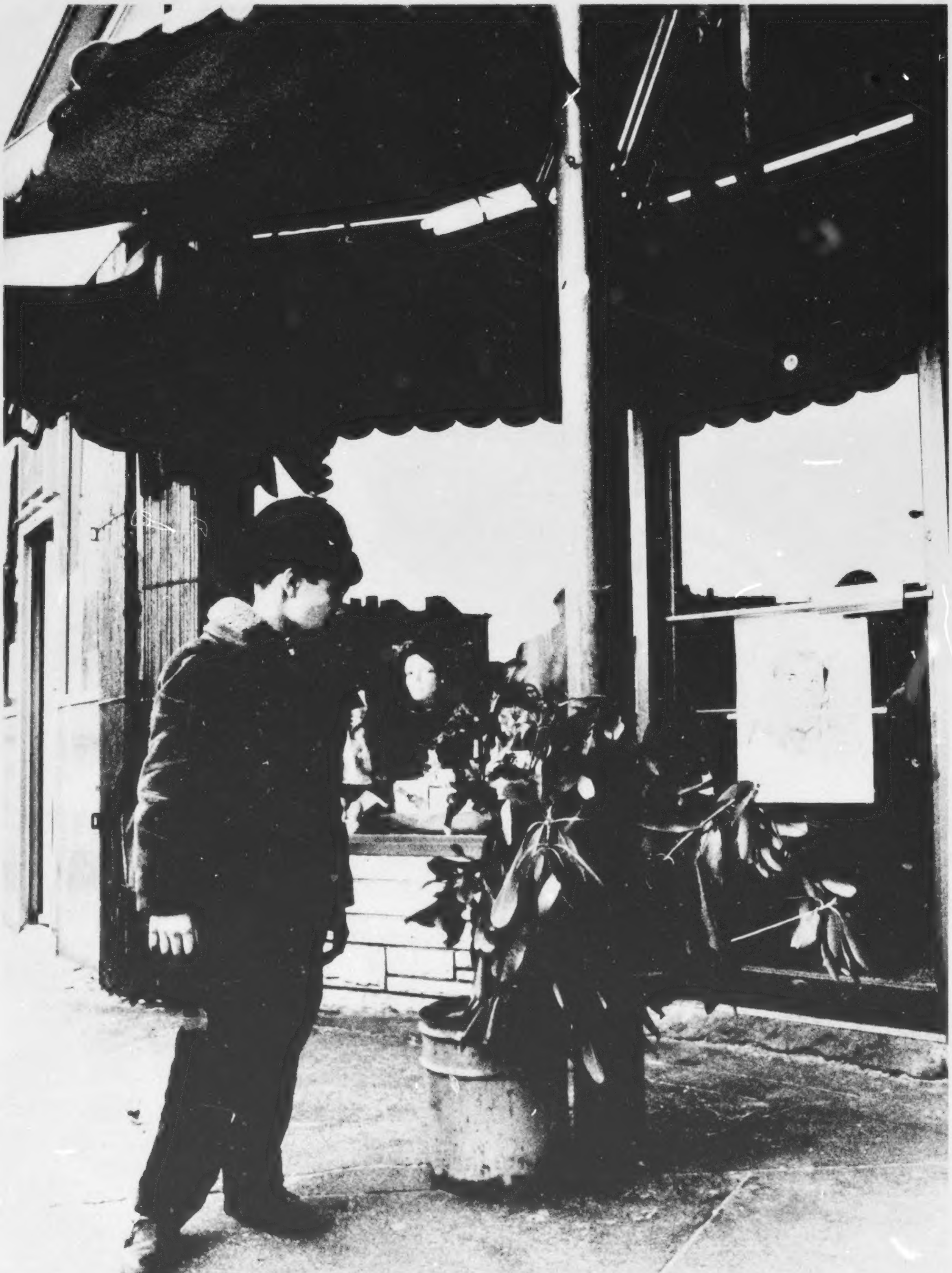
Hacía meses ya que estaba en su nueva clase, más de pronto volvía a sentirse triste.

Mientras caminaba hacia su casa, pensaba en su pueblo en Puerto Rico, en la gente que conocía allí, en las casas bonitas. Su casa era pequeña pero Manuel creía que era la más bonita del pueblo. Pensaba en las flores con que su mamá adornaba la casa, en los árboles del patio, en la yerba verde que rodeaba la casa . . .


P SAJES
A TODAS PARTES
VUELE AHORA
PAGUE DESPUES

Al llegar a la esquina, Manuel miró a ambos lados. Había tantos carros, tantos edificios altos, tanto concreto.

¿Dónde están las flores, los árboles y la yerba? pensó Manuel. Respiró hondo. Hasta el aire olía diferente.



Cuando subía las escaleras del edificio donde vivía, sus dos amigos, Juanito y Pedro, corrieron hacia él.

-Manuel, ¿vas a bajar más tarde? - le preguntó Juanito.

-Encontramos unas cajas grandes en la calle, cerca del solar, y están muy buenas para rodarnos en ellas - le dijo Pedro.

Manuel los miró y les gritó: - Primero, tendré que pedirle permiso a mamá, pero trataré de bajar pronto. ¿Está bien?

Manuel subió las escaleras. Tocó a la puerta y oyó pasos. Alguien preguntó, detrás de la puerta:

-¿Quién es?

-Soy yo, mamá - contestó Manuel. Al entrar, tiró los libros en la silla.

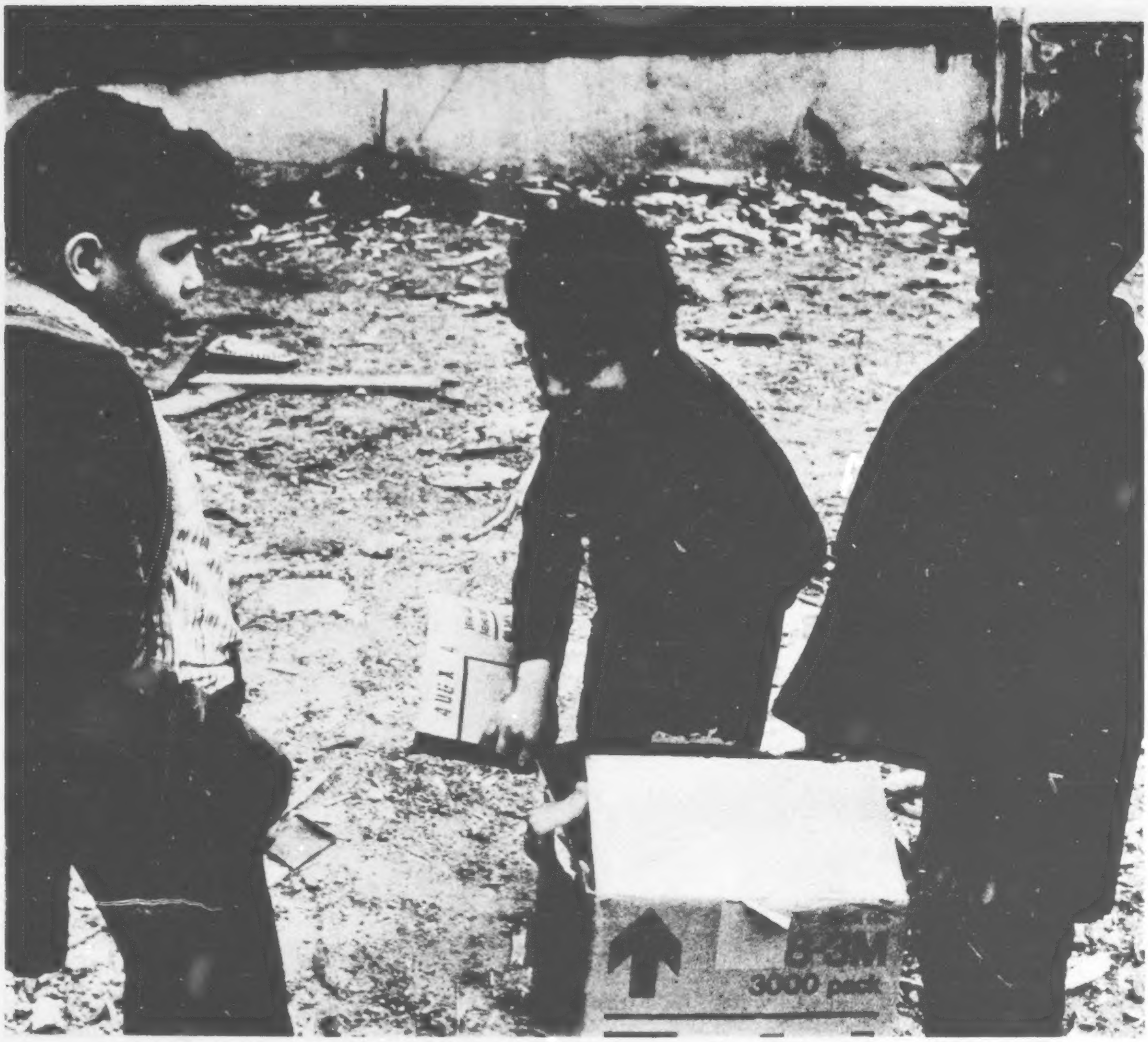
-Mamá,¿puedo ir a jugar afuera hoy? Estaré con Juanito y Pedro.

-Está bien. De una vez, baja la basura. Y cuando me asome a la ventana quiero que estés en este lado de la calle.

¡Manuel bajó las escaleras muy contento!

Con sus amigos se fue corriendo al solar vacío. Saltaban sobre los montones de tierra.

Cuando llegaron, Pedro cogió una caja, le arrancó las tapas y se metió dentro de ella. Manuel y Juanito rodaron la caja.


B-3M
3000 pack

Luego le tocó a Juanito meterse en la caja. Cuando le tocó el turno a Manuel, Juanito y Pedro dieron muchas vueltas. Manuel se mareó.

LILY-TULIP
ounce
COLD

Al salir de la caja, Manuel vio algo detrás de unos ladrillos viejos. Cuando se acercó, vio que era yerba. No creía que la yerba podía crecer rodeada de tanta basura. De repente, le vino una idea.

Caminó hacia la yerba y le dijo: -¡ Yerba, te voy a ayudar a crecer!

Manuel corrió hacia Juanito y Pedro y les dijo:

-¿Por qué no me ayudan a sembrar algunas plantas y más yerba?

Pedro miró a Manuel y le dijo:

-Manuel, yo creo que tú rodaste demasiado en la caja y todavía estás mareado. ¡Mira cómo está este solar lleno de basura!

-Sí,- dijo Juanito: - ¿Cómo van a crecer flores aquí? Vámonos, Pedro.

Y se alejaron riéndose. Manuel se quedó solo, pensando: - Yo las haré crecer. No me importa si se ríen. Yo las haré crecer.

Todas las tardes, después de la escuela, Manuel corría a su casa. Luego caminaba hacia el solar y él solito se ponía a recoger la basura.

Estaba muy contento. Pero no le dijo a nadie lo que hacía. Quería que fuera una sorpresa. Él les enseñaría a todos lo que era capaz de hacer por sí solo. Muchas veces había visto a su madre trabajando en el jardín, allá en Puerto Rico. Había aprendido muchas cosas acerca de las flores y cómo hacerlas crecer.

Manuel recogió cuidadosamente todas las semillas que pudo. Recogió semillas de tomate, aguacate y calabaza. También algunas habichuelas de las que su mamá guardaba en la cocina.

Después que limpió bien el sitio, sembró las semillas. No creía que todas iban a crecer, pero esperaba que algunas crecieran.

Todos los días les echaba agua y velaba que nadie les tirara basura encima.

45

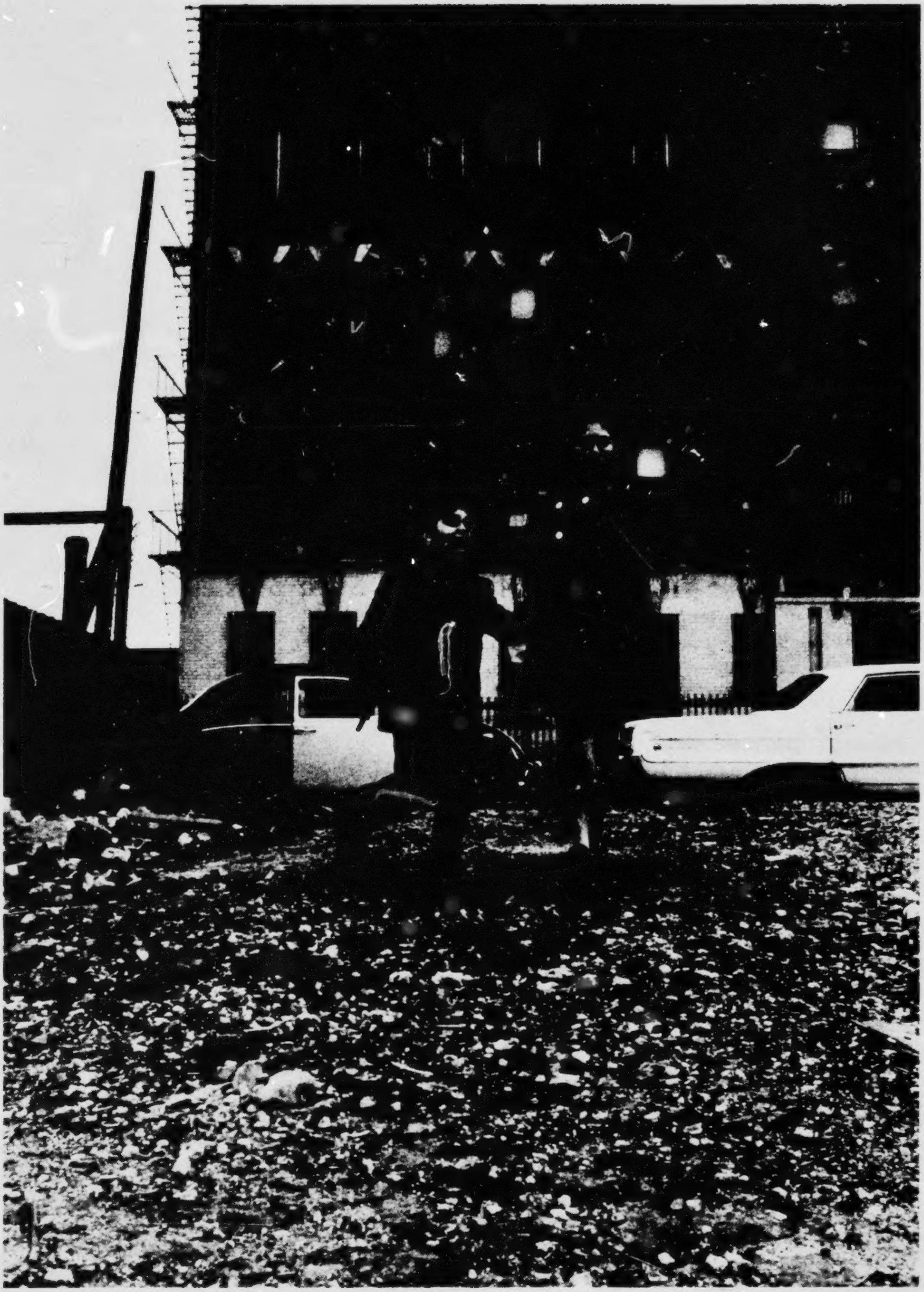
Esperó bastante tiempo, pero nada pasó.

-Las semillas no crecen - le dijo Manuel a su mamá llorando. -¿Qué es lo que he hecho mal?

-No llores - le dijo su mamá. - Tienes que tener paciencia.

Un día, al verlo venir de la escuela, su mamá corrió hacia él:

-¡Manuel, Manuel, ven enseguida! Tengo una sorpresa para ti.



Y se fueron juntos. Al llegar al solar, Manuel casi no podía creer lo que veía. En la esquina del solar que había limpiado, ahora crecía . . . la mata más bella que él jamás había visto.

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